

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 SEC-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 GSA-02
INT-05 OPIC-03 AID-05 IGA-02 XMB-02 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 SS-15 SP-02 OMB-01 /067 W
-----107400 251429Z /43
R 250925Z NOV 77
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6994
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 3110P

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV, WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: DUBIOUS DIAMOND MINING INVESTMENT SCHEME

REF: STATE 278762

1. OUR INFORMATION HERE REGARDING SUBJECT INVESTMENT IN A LARGE SCALE DIAMOND VENTURE IN NAMIBIA (REFTEL) IS REGRETTABLY LARGELY NEGATIVE THUS FAR. WE HAVE SEARCHED ALL KNOWN MINE LISTINGS, DIRECTORIES AND OTHER RELATED DATA AVAILABLE IN OUR FILES, AND HAVE DISCREETLY CONTACTED RELIABLE SAG AND PRESS SOURCES. WE CAN PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ONLY.

2. DESMOND MATHEWS (CITIZENSHIP UNKOWN), ALLEDGEDLY REPRESENTING TRUST AND MINING COMPANY (PTY) LTD., UBS BUILDING, KAISER STREET, BOX 82, WINDHOEK, TELEPHONED THE REGIONAL RESOURCES OFFICER, JOHANNESBURG, ABOUT ONE YEAR AGO TO INQUIRE INTO U.S. COMPANY PARTICIPATION IN MINING IN NAMIBIA. HE WAS ADVISED THAT USG POLICY DISCOURAGES INVESTMENT IN THAT AREA. WE CANNOT RECALL PRECISELY THE TYPE, OR TYPES, OF COMMODITIES MATHEWS SAID HIS FIRM WAS (THEN) INTERESTED IN, BUT BELIEVE HIS THRUST WAS TOWARD URANIUM; NOT DIAMONDS. IN ANY EVENT, HE HAS NOT CONTACTED THIS OFFICE SUBSEQUENTLY AND IS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE PERSONALLY MET WITH ANY
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MEMBER OF THIS CONSULATE IN THIS, OR ANY OTHER, CONNECTION. THE TRUST AND MINING COMPANY CONTINUES TO BE LISTED IN THE SWA TELEPHONE DIRECTORY.

3. NEITHER THE TRUST AND MINING COMPANY, NAMIBIA DIAMOND MINDING COMPANY NOR UNIVERSAL DIAMOND MINING, N.V., ARE LISTED IN CURRENT ACCREDITED MINING OR INVESTMENT COMPANY DIRECTORIES

.
FURTHER, SAG AND OTHER SOURCES REACHED CLAIM TO BE UNAWARE OF THEIR EXISTANCE OR ACTIVITIES. ACCORDING TO SAG MINERALS BUREAU DIRECTOR, DIRK NEETHLING, MINING CONCESSION INFORMATION OF THIS NATURE (E.G. CONCESSIONS GRANTED TO NAMIBIA DIAMOND MINING COMPANY, OR OTHERS) MAY ONLY BE CHECKED ACCURATELY THROUGH PERSONAL INQUIRY IN THE OFFICES OF THE MINING COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF MINES, WINDHOEK. EMBOFF EICHER, PRETORIA, PLANS WINDHOEK VISIT DURING WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28, AND WILL ATTEMPT OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION AT THAT TIME.

4. MEANWHILE, WE HAVE NOT APPROACHED DEBEERS OR ANGLO AMERICAN REPS ON THIS QUESTION BECAUSE OF THESE FIRMS KNOWN RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS NAMIBIAN AFFAIRS; VIS-A-VIS USG SENSITIVITIES TOWARD NAMIBIA. WE WILL DO SO TO THE LIMIT POSSIBLE AND AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL, HOWEVER, IF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT DEEM SUCH AN INQUIRY TO BE WARRANTED.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIAMONDS, MINING, INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JOHANN03110
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770437-0701
Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771120/aaaaaqtc.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b223b911-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 278762
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 457608
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: DUBIOUS DIAMOND MINING INVESTMENT SCHEME
TAGS: EINV, BBAK, WA, SF, NAMIBIA DIAMOND MINING CO, UNIVERSAL DIAMOND MINING NV
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b223b911-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009